

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q68474

Atsushi MISAWA, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/078,384

Group Art Unit: 2615

Confirmation No.: 5012

Examiner: Lin Ye

Filed: February 21, 2002

For: DIGITAL CAMERA

INVENTORS' DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

We, Atsushi Misawa and Yasunobu Kayanuma, hereby declare and state as follows:

1. We are citizens of Japan.
2. We are the inventors of and applicants of the invention entitled "DIGITAL CAMERA," disclosed and claimed in U.S. Patent Application No. 10/078,384, filed February 21, 2002.
3. At the time we invented the present invention, we were employed by Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd., the assignee of this application by virtue of assignment recorded on Reel No. 012615, Frame 0008.
4. Prior to February 21, 2001, the U.S. filing date of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0050875, the Digital Camera invention as described above and claimed in the above referenced application was conceived in Japan, and further, the invention was constructively

INVENTORS' DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131
Application No. 10/078,384

reduced to practice with diligence from the period prior to February 21, 2001, to the filing of the priority document on February 28, 2001, as evidenced by the following:

5. Prior to February 21, 2001, having earlier conceived the idea of the Digital Camera invention as set forth in the specification of the above referenced application, the present invention was formally submitted to our employer Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd. in the form of an Invention Disclosure Document on January 25, 2001. The Invention Disclosure Document and an English translation of the Invention Disclosure Document are attached as Exhibit "A."

6. The attached Invention Disclosure Document completely discloses the present invention as set forth and claimed in at least the independent claims in the above referenced application.

7. Prior to February 21, 2001, we assigned to Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd. any rights to apply for, at home or abroad, a patent/utility model for the present invention/device. The assignment was executed at the Intellectual Property Department at Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd. on January 25, 2001. The Assignment executed at the Intellectual Property Department and the English translation of the Assignment are attached as Exhibit "B."

8. Prior to February 21, 2001, Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd. sent a letter to Matsuura & Associates requesting preparation of a domestic patent/utility model specification based on the Invention Disclosure Document on February 20, 2001. The Letter of Request for the Preparation of Domestic Patent/Utility Model Specification and an English translation thereof are attached as Exhibit "C."

INVENTORS' DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131
Application No. 10/078,384

9. In the ordinary course of business and in due time, Matsuura & Associates prepared the domestic patent/utility model specification based on the Invention Disclosure Document. A declaration by Mr. Kenzo Matsuura of Matsuura & Associates is attached as Exhibit "E."

10. On February 28, 2001, Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd. sent a letter to Matsuura & Associates requesting that an application for a domestic patent/utility model be filed with the Japanese Patent Office. The Letter of Request for Filing of Domestic Patent/Utility Model and an English translation thereof are attached as Exhibit "D."

11. In the ordinary course of business and in due time, Matsuura & Associates filed the patent/utility model application in the Japanese Patent Office on February 28, 2001, as JP-2001-054965. A declaration by Mr. Kenzo Matsuura of Matsuura & Associates is attached as Exhibit "E."

We declare further that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date: January 13, 2006

Atsushi Misawa
Atsushi Misawa

Date: January 13, 2006

Yasunobu Kayanuma
Yasunobu Kayanuma

EXHIBIT A

INVENTION DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT

01-3427

知財部 殿

SHNO H12-421
発明開示書

1/4
2月未出願 ✓

H13年 / 月25日

作成者: 職場 氏名

三沢 亮史

* 1. 発明の名称

自動消去機能も有するデジタルカメラ

* 2. 発明の技術分野

デジタルカメラの画像記録消去方法に関する

* 3. 従来技術とその欠点(他社特許、文献についてはコピー添付)

引用例	番号等	出願人等	備 考
①	特開 2000-28490	FF	
②	特開 2000-125135	オリンパス	
③	特開 10-79914	ミルタ	
④	特開 11-187347	東セウ	

(本発明と従来技術との相違)

従来のデジタルカメラでは不要ものを消去する際に再生画像を見て、消去を選択する必要があったが、再生機能の無いカメラでは消去が出来ないのが一般的だった。

又、再生機能付きでもととのシャッターチャンスが~~発生~~して、その時重要な後の画像を消したいと思っても再生画像を見なくてはならずおそろしいばかりでなく、シャッターチャンスを見逃がす場合があった。

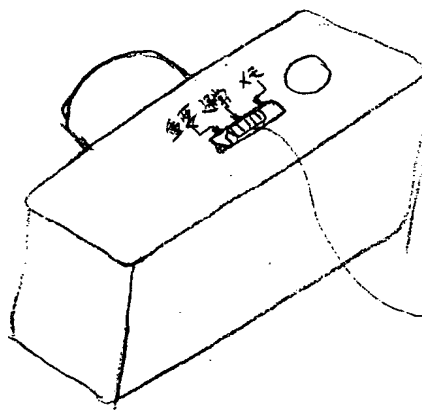
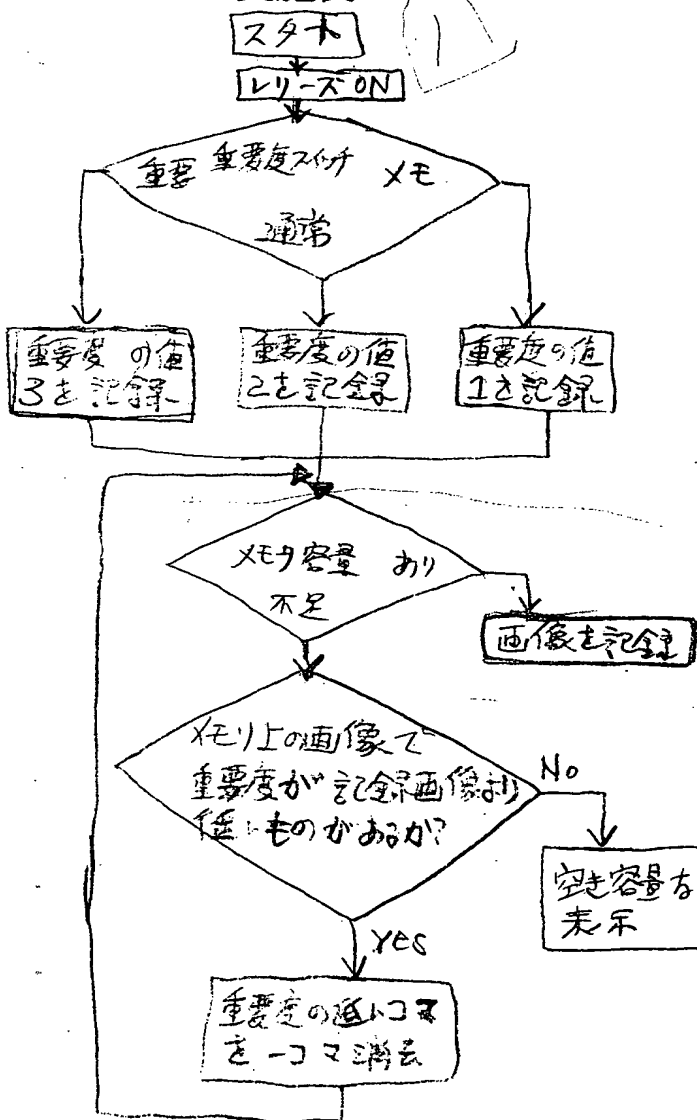
* 4. 発明が解決しようとする課題

同上

* 5. 課題を解決するための手段

- ① 画像の重要度を選択する手段と
 ② 選択された重要度を画像に関連付けて記憶する手段と
 A ③ メモリ容量が不足した場合に撮影画像より重要度の低い画像を自動的に
 削除し新規画像を記録する手段
 ④ 記録画像を解新し破綻している可能性の高い画像にマークする手段と
 B ⑤ メモリ容量が不足した場合に破綻画像を消去し上書きする手段と

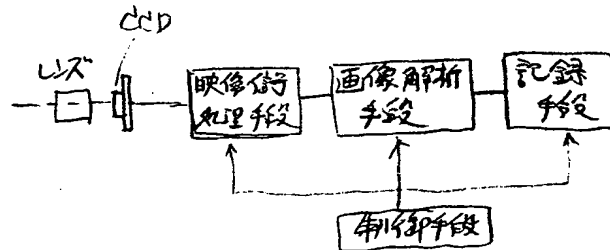
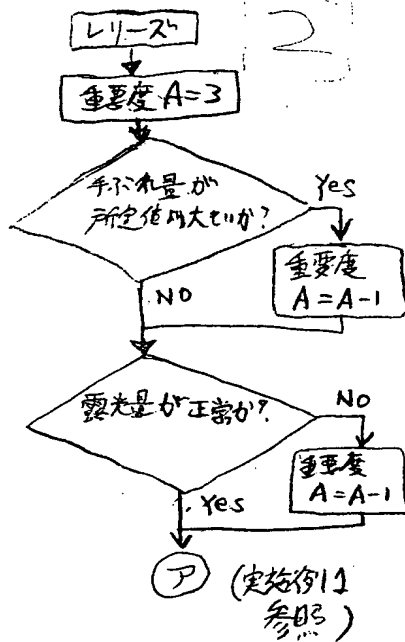
6 a. 実施例



3段階スイッチ

モニタ付きでは再生画像も
見ながら重要度の入力、変更を
行なえる様にして、とっさの使用
に備える様にしてもよい。

6 b. その他の実施例



6 c. 考えられる他の用途

* 7 a. 発明の効果

① 重要度に応じてすでに記録された画像を消去して、新しい画像を書き入れる様にしたので、メモリーのない安価なカメラでもメモリーの残量も有効に使うことができる。

② メモリー付カメラでは消しても良い画像があるかじめ重要度を下げておくことで、とっその撮影時にも対応でき、重要な画像をあわてて消してしまうことがなくなる。

7 b. 発明の予期せざる効果

7 c. 実地例に特有の効果

8 a. 特許請求の範囲

8 b. 特許請求の範囲を規定する各技術的手段に関する
段階的記載

9. 図面の簡単な説明

01-3427

To: Messrs. Intellectual Property Department

SHNO H12-421

to be filed by the end
of February**Invention Disclosure Document**

January 25, 2001

Prepared by: Atsushi MISAWA

***1. Title of the Invention**

Digital camera having an automatic erase function

***2. Field of the Invention**

The invention is related to recorded image erase methods in a digital camera.

***3. Prior Art and Its Disadvantages (Copies of patents and reference materials from the other companies are attached.)**

Reference	Number	Applicant	Remarks
①	Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2000-244790	FF	
②	Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2000-125135	Olympus Corporation	
③	Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. H10-79914	Konica Minolta Holdings, Inc.	
④	Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. H11-187347	Kyocera Corporation	

(Differences between this invention and conventional technologies)

When erasing an unnecessary frame in a conventional digital camera, the user needs to select an image to be erased while viewing reproduced images. Therefore, the user cannot erase the unnecessary frame typically from a camera without a reproduction function.

Further, as for the cameras having the reproduction function as well, when the user wants to quickly capture an image, even if the user wants to erase images of lower priorities, the user needs to view reproduced images to find the images to be erased. Thus the operation is inconvenient, and the user may miss an opportunity to capture an image.

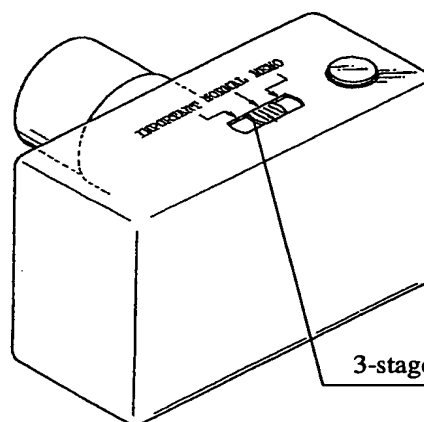
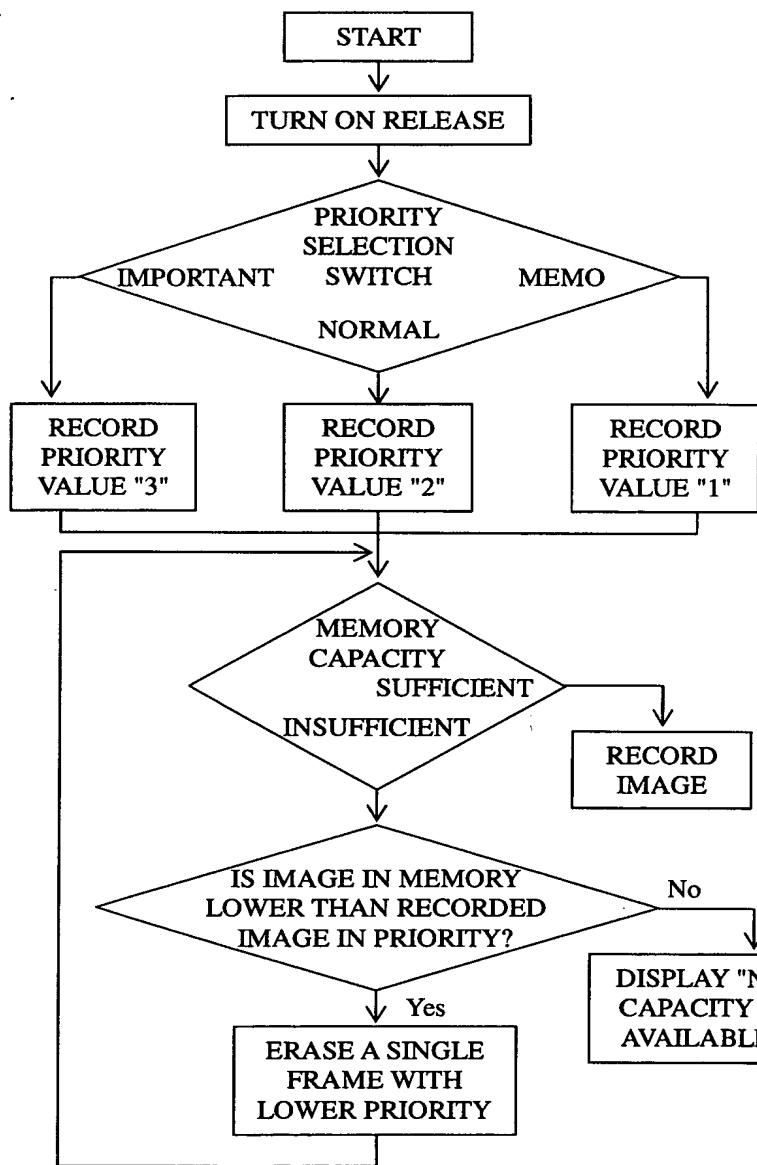
***4. Problems to be Solved by the Invention**

As described above.

*5. Means for Solving the Problems

- A. ① A priority can be selected for an image.
 ② The selected priority is recorded in association with an image.
 ③ When the memory capacity is insufficient, an image with priority lower than a newly captured image is automatically erased, and the new image is recorded.
- B. ① Recorded images are analyzed, and images that may be damaged are marked.
 ② When the memory capacity is insufficient, a damaged image is erased and overwritten.

6a. Example

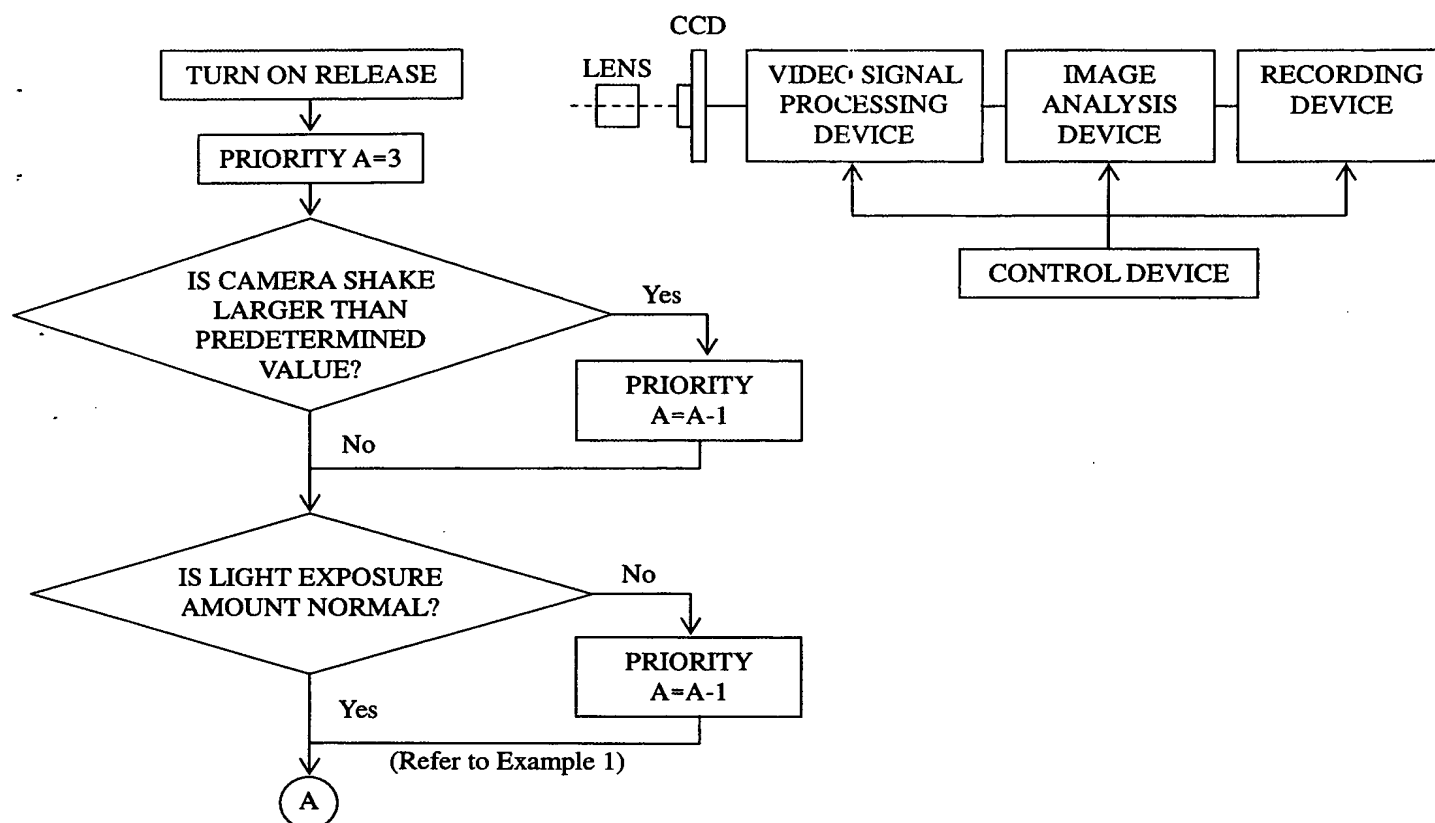


3-stage switch

For a camera with a monitor, it is also possible to allow the user to input or change a priority while viewing reproduced images so that he can quickly capture an image at any time.

A

6b. Other Examples



6c. Other Possible Uses

*7a. Advantages of the Invention

- Even an inexpensive camera not having a monitor can effectively use the memory's remaining capacity because recorded images can be erased according to their priorities in order to write a new image.
- As for cameras having a monitor, by setting a lower priority to a candidate image to be erased in advance, the user can quickly respond to an opportunity for capturing an image, and important images are protected from being erased by mistake in a rush.

7b. Unexpected Advantages of the Invention

7c. Advantages Unique to the Example

8a. Claims for the Patent

8b. Step-by-Step Descriptions Related to Individual Technological Means that Define the Claims for the Patent

9. Brief Description of the Drawings

EXHIBIT B

**ASSIGNMENT EXECUTED AT
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT**

財」担当者作成→「知財」地区入力(「知財」地区保管)

出願方法連絡書



「知財」担当者	「知財」上長	「知財」地区入力
		入力済 13.2.20 松本

2001-54965

事業場整理番号	013427
「知財」担当者コード	75

SHNOH12-421

1. 発明・考案の名称(仮) 自動消去機能と有るアツタルカメシ
2. 発明・考案者

左記発明・考案の内外国における特許・実用新案登録を受ける権利を富士写真フイルム株式会社に譲渡しました。

平成 13 年 1 月 25 日

A 記入	氏名(フリガナ)	社員番号	上二桁	所属および コード	寄与率
A	ミサワ アツシ	881243	Mi	86AE58	95
	カキタ マサノブ	891014	KA	86AE72	15
	柏沼 康彦				
B					000

ミサワ アツシ
柏沼 康彦



会社所定の職務発明補償金が支払われた時は、特許法第35条(実用新案法において準用する場合も含む)に基づく対価は総て支払われたものとし、これ以外の請求は一切致しません。

- ①緊急度 ☐ 定常 ☒ 緊急 ②重要度 ☒ 普通 ☐ 重要 ③出願種別 ☒ 特許(1) ☐ 実案(2)

- ④内作・外注区分 ☐ 内作(A9) ☒ 外注 ランク A

- ⑤外注の場合の依頼先事務所: 松本

指定担当者: 原 ☐ 弁理士 ☒ 以外

- ⑥納期 明細書案納品日: 13 年 2 月 28 日まで

出願希望日: 年 2 月 28 日まで

出願最終期限日: 年 2 月 28 日

- ⑦特殊扱い ☒ なし ☐ 国内優先権主張 (補償金支払い ☐ 要 ☐ 不要) ☐ 分割 ☐ 変更

(☐ 補償金支払い不要)

先願又は原出願番号
および出願日

番号:
番号:

出願日: 年 月 日
出願日: 年 月 日

- ⑧関連契約 ☒ なし ☐ あり 契約先および契約の名称:

- ⑨共願人 ☒ なし ☐ あり 共願人:

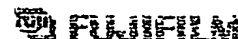
出願手続: ☐ 当方 ☐ 先方()

共願人情報(担当者名, TEL No., FAX No., 等)

住 所 〒	☎ () -
	FAX () -
連絡窓口 住所	部署名
	担当者
	☎ () -
	FAX () -

Preparation by the person in charge of "Intellectual Property"
→ District Input of "Intellectual Property"
(District's safekeeping of "Intellectual Property")

Filing Procedure
Communication
Document



Person in charge of "Intellectual Property"	Assistant general manager in charge of "Intellectual Property"	District Input of "Intellectual Property"
Intellectual Property Sugano	Intellectual Property 13.2.20 Nakada	Input Already 13.2.20 Matsumoto

2001-54965

SHNOH12-421

Reference Number in Working Place	0 1 3 4 2 7
Code of Person in Charge of "Intellectual Property"	75

- Title of Invention/Device
(Provisional)
- Inventor/Creator of Device

digital camera having an automatic erase
function

I have assigned to Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd. any rights
to apply for registration, at home and abroad,
concerning a patent/utility model of the above-
mentioned invention/device.

January 25, 2001

Register A	Name (furigana name)	Employee Number	First two figures	Dept. and its Code	Contributing Ratio
A	MISAWA, Atsushi	8 8 2 4 3	M i	Densetsu 8 6 A E 5 8	9 5
	KAYANUMA, Yasunobu	8 9 0 1 4	K A	Densetsu 8 6 A E 7 2	5
B					0 0 0

MISAWA, Atsushi (sealed)

KAYANUMA,
Yasunobu (sealed)

When Compensation for Invention in Service specified
by the regulations of the Company has been paid, I will
not claim any payment other than such Compensation,
deeming that all the consideration under Article 35 of
the Patent Law (including where the Utility Model Law
shall apply mutatis mutandis) has been paid.

① Level of Urgency ☐ Regular ☒ Urgent ② Level of Importance ☒ Normal ☐ Important ③ Application Class ☒ Patent (1) ☐ Utility Model (2)

④ Classification of Internal Production/Outsourcing ☐ Internal Production (A9) ☒ Outsourcing Rank ☐ A

⑤ Patent Office to file an application in the case of outsourcing: Matsuura & Associates

Nominated person in charge: Mr. Haraguchi ☐ Patent Attorney ☒ Others

⑥ Date of Delivery: Delivery Date of Specification Draft: By February 26, 2001

Expected Application Date: By February 28, 2001
Application Deadline: February 28, 2001

⑦ Special Treatment ☒ Not Required ☐ Claim of Domestic Priority (Compensation Payment is ☐ Required ☐ Not Required) ☐ Division of Application
☐ Conversion of Application

(☐ Compensation Payment is not required) Earlier application number or original application
number, and the filing date of application

Application Number: _____ Application Date: _____
Application Number: _____ Application Date: _____

⑧ Associated Agreements ☒ None ☐ Exist Counterparties and Titles of the Agreements:

⑨ Joint Applicants ☒ None ☐ Exist Name of Joint Applicants:

Application Procedure: ☐ On Our Part ☐ On Their Part ()

Information about Joint Applicants (Name of the person in charge, Tel number, FAX number, and so forth)

Address with postal code	TEL () -
Address of the Contact Person	Department Name: Person in Charge: TEL () -

EXHIBIT C

**LETTER OF REQUEST FOR PREPARATION OF
SPECIFICATION FOR PATENT/UTILITY MODEL**

22
九

松浦国際特許事務所 殿

FF 発注番号 : 10013427
経費コード : 01-11

国内 特・実 明細書作成依頼書

平成 13 年 2 月 20 日
富士写真フイルム株式会社
知的財産部 (朝霞) 公明
主任技師 仲田



下記の明細書の作成を依頼いたします。

種 別 : 特 許

名 称 :

事 特 番 号 : 013427

知的財産担当者 : (朝) 菅野
連絡担当者 : 電 話 S E 三沢 充 史

費 所 希 望 担 当 者 : 原 口 殿

重 要 度 : 普 通

緊 急 度 : 緊 急

納 期 明 細 書 案 納 日 : 平 成 13 年 02 月 26 日 まで
出 願 希 望 日 : 平 成 13 年 02 月 28 日 まで
出 願 最 終 期 限 日 : 平 成 13 年 02 月 28 日 まで

国内優先権の表示 :

連絡欄 : 手数料はランク A です。

お願い ; 上記条件 (納期、担当者) に問題がある場合は、請書をご提出
いただいた前日に知的財産部担当へ連絡し、調整して下さい。

To: Messrs. Matsuura & Associates

FF Order No: 10013427

Expense Code: 01-11

Letter of Request for the Preparation of Domestic Patent/ Utility Model Specification

February 20, 2001

Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd.

Intellectual Property Department (Asaka)

Chief Engineer NAKADA, Kimiaki
(sealed)

We would like to request you to prepare the following patent specification.

Class: Patent

Title:

Jitoku Number: 013427

Person in charge of Intellectual Property Department: (Asaka) Sugano

Principal contacts: MISAWA, Atsushi of Densetsu SE

Expected Person in Charge of Your Office: Mr. HARAGUCHI

Level of Importance: Normal

Level of Urgency: Urgent

Date of Delivery

Delivery Date of Specification Draft : By February 26, 2001

Expected Application Date : By February 28, 2001

Application Deadline : By February 28, 2001

Domestic Priority :

Indication of Earlier Application:

Communication Space: Service Fee falls under Rank A.

Attention: If there is any problem regarding the above conditions (delivery date and your person in charge), you are kindly requested to communicate with the person in charge of our Intellectual Property Department before sending acknowledgement of order to our company to make an adjustment.

EXHIBIT D

**LETTER OF REQUEST FOR FILING
DOMESTIC PATENT/UTILITY MODEL**

松浦国際特許事務所 殿

国内 特・実 出願依頼書

2001 年 2 月 28 日
富士写真フイルム株式会社
知的財産部主査富塚幹雄

下記に関し特許庁への出願手続きを依頼いたします。

種 別 : 特許出願

事特番号 : 013427

知的財産部担当者 : 菅野
連絡担当者 : 電設 S E 三沢充史出願希望日 : 平成 13 年 02 月 28 日まで
出願最終期限日 平成 13 年 02 月 28 日まで

請求項の数 : 6

国内優先権 :
先の出願の表示 :

共同出願人 : ナシ

連絡欄 : I P C : H04N 5/225

発明・考案者氏名及び居所

三沢 充史
栢 沼 康 修ミサワ アツシ
カヤマ マスノブ(朝 霞)
804E72
(朝 霞)

To: Messrs. Matsuura & Associates

Letter of Request for the Application of Domestic Patent/Utility Model

February 28, 2001
Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd.
Intellectual Property Department
Project General Manager
TOMIZUKA, Mikio (sealed)

We would like to request you to file an application for patent of the following to the Patent Office.

Class: Application for Patent

Jitoku Number: 013427

Person in charge of Intellectual Property Department: Sugano
Principal contacts: MISAWA, Atsushi of Densetsu SE

Expected Application Date : By February 28, 2001
Application Deadline : By February 28, 2001

Number of claims: 6

Domestic Priority:
Indication of Earlier Application:

Joint Applicants: None

Communication Space: IPC: H04N 5/225

Name and Address of Inventor/Creator of Device

MISAWA, Atsushi (Asaka)
KAYANUMA, Yasunobu ~~80AE72~~
(Asaka)

EXHIBIT E

DECLARATION OF MR. KENZO MATSUURA

PATENT APPLICATION
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q68474

Atsushi MISAWA, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/078,384

Group Art Unit: 2615

Confirmation No.: 5012

Examiner: Lin Ye

Filed: February 21, 2002

For: DIGITAL CAMERA

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I, Kenzo Matsuura of Matsuura & Associates, hereby declare and state as follows:

1. My position at Matsuura & Associates is president, patent attorney
2. On February 20, 2001, Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd. sent a letter requesting that Matsuura & Associates prepare a draft of a domestic patent/utility model specification based on an invention disclosure document.
3. In the ordinary course of business and in due course, the domestic patent/utility model specification was prepared by Matsuura & Associates.
4. On February 28, 2001, Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd. sent a letter requesting that Matsuura & Associates file the domestic patent/utility model specification with the Japanese Patent Office.
5. In the ordinary course of business and in due course, Matsuura & Associates filed the domestic patent/utility model specification in the Japanese Patent Office. The domestic patent/utility model specification was filed as JP-2001-054965 on February 28, 2001.

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131
Application No. 10/078,384

Attorney Docket No. Q68474

I declare further that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date: January 13, 2006


Kenzo Matsuura